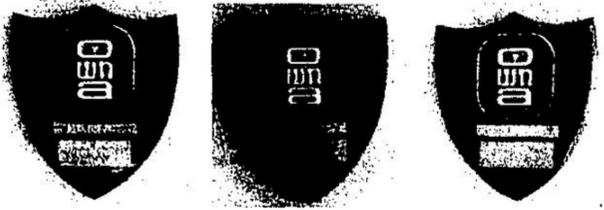


Free Press Editorial Page



Live 'n learn

Three plaques came home with staff members who attended the annual convention of the Ontario Weekly Newspapers Association last week in Toronto.

Overall, we placed three points below the third place winner. In first place was the Carleton Place Canadian with 366 marks...

In our circulation category were 23 papers, including the community weeklies from Chesterville, Fort Erie, Kemptonville, Fergus, Port Perry, Midland, Prescott, Little Current, Kincardine, Bolton, Collingwood, Wiarton, Ingersoll, Tilbury, Port Colbourne, Goderich and Vankleek Hill.

The editorial staffs of newspapers attended four sessions together, talking over their mutual problems.

It's good to talk to others who are

in the same situation. Many families still run weeklies. Staffs range from one person operations to large staffs.

Our advertising salesmen and business people attended special seminars, too.

We went together to a session of the Legislature, met the Premier and had coffee with the Liberals, including our own member Julian Reed.

We breakfasted atop the CN tower—a wonderful experience on a clear morning. We were the first to arrive at 8 a.m. Local Guides and Brownies who went to the tower later in the day waited three hours in line-ups to get up in the elevator.

Hotel Toronto was a fine place to be, and we met another Actonian there, checking the place out for another convention!

We ate out at Fisherman's Wharf and Sherlock's and had good meals right in the hotel.

All of us learned things that we hope will make our paper more interesting, profitable and useful to the community.

Snowmobile damage

Snowmobiles have become popular recreational vehicles but for at least some Ontario farmers they have become a nuisance. Because their tracks reduce the yield and quality of crops, snowmobiles should not be operated on crop land.

frost to penetrate deeper. Additional water content causes ice to form which in turn smothers alfalfa or fall wheat. If alfalfa is smothered in the first winter after seeding, the yield is decreased as long as the stand remains.

Think back now! Where have you been snowmobiling?

800 years of TV

In the chaos created by heavy snowstorms in Ontario, the majority of people turn to increased television watching—and an astounding amount of it. So indicates the latest TV audience figures just released.

6 to 7 p.m. traditional news hour, adult audiences increased by a third over the usual level. The 11 p.m. national TV newscast audience was also up by some 30 per cent over normal for a Thursday.

According to the recent mid-winter survey conducted by Bureau of Broadcast Measurement on Thursday, January 26 when the first major snowstorm of the year virtually paralyzed central and southern Ontario, viewing soared throughout our part of the province by nearly 7 million additional hours over the previous Thursday—an equivalent of 800 years of television watching!

On the day following the storm, Friday, January 27, BBM figures reveal that teens and children again stayed home from class; daytime TV viewing among the younger set was 60 per cent higher than on the same day of the week before. A slight increase in adult audience indicated that while most people struggled back to work there were a few who decided against battling the elements.

Wintertime advice

The mail brings us many interesting things, among them a lot that go straight into file G.

Recently we located a lot of advice on walking in the winter. This week's mail brings more advice that is worth sharing.

away, the ice should be a clear blue colour.

Always wear correctly fitted skates. Youngsters sometimes put on skates belonging to bigger children and often end up with unnecessary falls and maybe twisted ankles. Don't skate by yourself. Watch where you are going to avoid other skaters, obstacles, and thin ice.

Winter recreation equipment must be of good quality and properly maintained. Equipment such as skis and skates must fit correctly.

Sledding and tobogganing should be done in places free from stumps, rocks, trees and other obstructions and away from road traffic. Never let children hook onto the back of a vehicle for a fast ride. Keep enough distance between sleds and toboggans to avoid collisions.

Sports equipment should be examined carefully before each outing for damage or excess wear. Watch for broken or worn skis bindings, cracked skis or toboggans, loose runners on sleds or improperly fitted hockey equipment.

Above all, warns the Ontario Safety League, small children should be supervised by an adult when tobogganning or skating.



SAY CHEESE EVERYONE: Second Acton Guides got together for a day of tobogganing Saturday after a winter sleep out Friday night. About 30 girls participated in the venture, and they all seemed to be enjoying themselves.



Sugar and spice by Bill Smiley

According to a recent magazine article, this is going to be The Year of the Peacock. There is afoot a strong movement away from the grub and slob of the past decade or so toward some style and taste in clothes and appearance. I'll drink to that.

hiked their skirts higher or leaped into jeans. Granny glasses and Mother Hubbard dresses became de rigueur with the more advanced girls. Afro hair styles and Jesus beards marked the more hirsute. Hip-hugger jeans and the bra-less look were a la mode. Girls ironed their hair. Curls were out, and pity the poor kid who had them naturally. She was a freak.

As a high school teacher, I've been in the front lines during the battles over clothes, hair lengths, exposed necks, and such-like. Not as a participant—I was never unduly exercised over excesses—but rather as an observer.

Then the young devils wanted to wear cool clothes in the hot months, and June produced shorts that left nothing to the imagination, on both sexes, bikini halters on the girls, bare feet in the classroom, and finally, beachwear. Every bit of it "neat and tidy."

During the reigns of a couple of pretty conservative principals in a small town, I watched with some amusement, occasionally hilarity, their Canute-like efforts to stem the flood of horrors sweeping in from the cities.

This was followed by the Grease Age, or the Sleaze Era, mainly marked by denim. Buy a new pair of jeans and jacket, wash them, fade them, shrink them, scissor them so they had ragged fringes, tear holes in them, patch them, and sew some provocative or scatological suggestion across the buttocks.

I think the first wave was longer hair for boys. Not the flowing tresses they sport today, many of them straight from the hair stylist, others with a hair-brush or comb often in evidence.

This particular period blew away completely the "neat and tidy" euphemism. Greasy hair, scruffy beards, no makeup and general grubbiness were the order of the day. Not a particularly pleasant age. Even I had to fight to avoid retching on occasion.

Heavens, no. The first rebels merely wanted to let their hair grow down to their collars.

And this particular movement dovetailed right into the new laws that lowered the drinking age to 18. In effect, it meant that kids from 14 up began to drink. Grade Eight girls were arriving at high school dances with a mickey in their purses.

No way. They were expelled, letters were sent home, they were offered the price of a hair-cut, and generally harassed. But that was just the tip of the iceberg.

It also tied into a new barrack-room

A side skirmish at the same time told teachers to keep their hair cut, wear a tie, shave off their beards (lady teachers, some of whom had better beards than some of the men, didn't have to shave) and keep their shoes shined.

Then the more docile girls got into the act, with the emergence of the mini-skirt. None of the younger male teachers had the slightest objection, but some of the old maids of both sexes were rather horrified. I believe, if I recollect aright, that one benighted educator suggested all teachers carry a ruler, and that skirts shorter than a certain standard be forbidden. (Or ripped off. It might have been one of the young male teachers.)

Beleaguered administrators tried grimly to hold the line. Boys were not to wear "ice-cream pants" or jeans. Girls must wear skirts.

Then came the deluge. County school boards, made up of mothers and fathers as cowardly as all the other parents battling the new wave of attire and appearance, cut the ground from under the administrators by declaring that anything went as long as the student was "neat and tidy" or some such cant phrase.

Wham! Hair sprouted in all directions from masculine adolescents. The girls

lawyer attitude on the part of some of the tougher kids. They knew well that punishment for infringement of rules was almost a thing of the past. No strap, no detention, and expulsion merely a welcome couple of weeks' holiday. Or screw school, I'll get a job, easy.

Well, things have changed. For the better. The pendulum has swung. The kids are starting to dislike slobs. Only those who are born slobs are keeping it up. Girls are wearing makeup, culottes, skirts, even dresses. Wispy boys' beards are disappearing. Shorter, neater haircuts are popping up here and there.

With jobs a lot tougher to obtain, the old cavalier attitude toward expulsion has moderated. The older kids are hanging in there rather grimly, knowing that, however much they hate school, it's better than being one of the great mass of the unemployed, out there in the snow.

Whatever is causing it, the new look is a welcome change after the sleaze days. Even my daughter, a graduate of the freak-out look, is beginning to shed her tattered jeans for skirts and vests, smart sweaters, and anything else ladylike her mother will buy her.

But knowing kids, I'm rather sanguine about the chances of the improvement remaining stable. Any day now, the boys are liable to start showing up in spats and shaven heads, the girls in corsets and high-laced boots, like their grandmothers.

Now, if only the young men would get rid of those ugly Gay Nineties moustaches...

Our readers write

Change our life style

R.R. 1, Limehouse

Dear Editor: It would seem that our life style has reached the stage of a quandary. All but one of my family got their public school education at the old stone school on Highway 7 and Limehouse Rd., and like all of its kind, it became outdated and was closed up for good.

Bigger and more modern schools took its place as progress and development called for the change to a better system.

Children were riding in buses to school everywhere. This cost the country a lot of money and gave employment, as well as the factory, to a lot of women that would

have done a better job in the home. Women always worked in weaving mills and such like as long as I mind, but our two world wars increased this a hundredfold, causing home and family life a great setback. We are reaping the harvest now.

About two weeks ago the Georgetown Independent carried a heading about a bad hill and parking at Holy Cross church as being a danger, after 12 years without a mishap. It seems not too sensible when we look at the straits of the country.

I would prefer to see the same at all churches in town and country, to give one day a week to our good Lord. With the Dutch Reform strong enough to fill in the gap between villages of Stewarttown, Limehouse and Ballinfad, as this is what our country is in need of, along with the rest of the world. We have got too materialistic for good results. Our concerns about Quebec and the twinning of our modern schools were created through our want of foresight to head it off, and belief the sun would never set.

So, my good people, to redeem and save our problems we will have to make an honest effort to change our life style and put our trust in the good Lord. Our time to accomplish this is also running out. Our churches will be our next concern if we don't act to change the picture now, for Canada's future hope.

Yours sincerely, George Graham

Reaction

69 Elizabeth Dr. Acton L7J 1B4 March 1, 1978

Dear Sir: Regarding Bob Durr's "OPINION" on Pat McKenzie dated March 1, please convey my heartfelt thanks to this gentleman for his comments.

I have cut the article out and presented it to my father for use in his vegetable garden and boy! Just watch those spuds grow! Yours sincerely, Eunice Gibb

The Free Press Back Issues

10 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press Wednesday, March 6, 1968

Fire gutted the Speyside home of Ron Wilson when the wood frame house caught fire about 2 p.m. yesterday (Tuesday) afternoon. The house was saved from being levelled but considerable damage was done to the inside of the house and to the contents. A motorist passing by saw the flames from the highway and told a hired hand, who in turn notified Milton firefighters. Both Milton and Acton fire brigades were summoned to the blaze.

Formal administration of the oath of office to Deputy Clerk Treasurer Del French took place at Monday's meeting of Esqueving council. Mr. French is taking over some of Clerk K.C. Lindsay's duties while the latter works only three days a week.

After being bitten by a muskrat on his way to Robert Little school, young Michael McMurray, son of the Rev. and Mrs. McMurray is receiving anti-rabies injections, just in case. He was bitten by the muskrat at the corner of Elizabeth Dr. and the highway. Few muskrats have been seen in this area and suspicions were raised that it may have had rabies.

Dr. and Mrs. A.J. Buchanan have returned from Honolulu, Hawaii where he attended a Shriners convention.

Three Acton girls, Susan Mills, Barbara Fowler and Susan McPhail, will dance on Big Al's program today. They are dance pupils of Carol Wharton.

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press March 20, 1958

Excitement ran high at the home of Yun Fong, proprietor of the Acton Home Laundry on Church St., last Sunday when Mun Yee Fong, his 15-year-old daughter arrived from Hong Kong after a separation of nine years. Mun Yee last saw her father in 1949 before he sailed for Canada, and her mother and little sister Munsin (Judy) in 1955.

A shiny new \$20,000 fire engine was the centre of attraction at the fire hall in Acton last Saturday afternoon as officials from Erin, Nassagaweya and Esqueving townships, along with Acton council members and the Acton volunteer fire department welcomed the arrival of the new unit purchased by the rural townships.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Ryder and David visited Sunday in St. Catharines with Mr. and Mrs. W. Wood.

Mrs. Clare Prosser of Levaok spent the weekend with her parents Mrs. and Mrs. G.A. Dills and Acton friends and relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. David A. Russell will be at home to their friends on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary on Sunday, March 30 at 4 Main St.

50 years ago

Taken from the Free Press of Thursday, March 8, 1928.

At a very representative meeting of the Chamber of Commerce and council it was agreed a covered rink should be built here. Mr. G.T. Beardmore said the company was prepared to give any part of the old rink that could be used and offered \$200 per year.

The Women's Institute ladies, who are always lending a helpful hand, donated \$5 to a needy family and \$5 to help provide a doctor for Tobemroy.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, March 14, 1878.

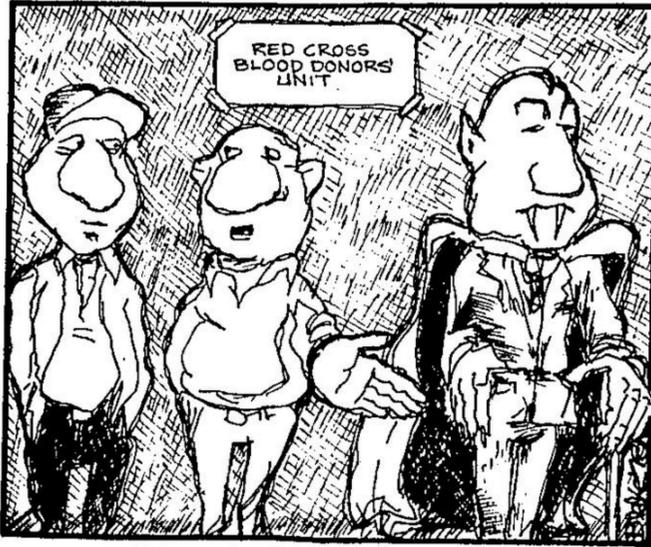
Last Friday morning about two o'clock as Mr. Geo. Matthews was returning home from flooding the rink, he discovered that the shoe shop of Mr. Alex Grant was on fire. He immediately ran to Mr. Grant's house, got the key and put the fire out before any great damage was done.

The Toronto Telegram says that out of every 100 buried persons, one living person is consigned to the tomb. Dinna forget Monday night's sweet Scottish singing in the temperance hall, by Baroness Nairne.

The Methodist church held a most enjoyable social Monday night with tea at 7:30 o'clock, readings, recitations, music etc. The proceeds amounted to about \$15 which will be applied to furnishing the parsonage.

Mr. John Hawkins has been appointed secretary of Acton School Board at a salary of \$20 for the current year. Finance committee report: John Ross salary for January \$45.83; Miss McKellar \$25; Miss Moore \$22; interest on school loan for last half of year \$42.25. There was a balance on hand of 20 cents at the end of 1877.

The board granted \$30 to be spent in supplementing the school library.



"Now that's class, real class."

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